

(AH) NANCY  
MARRIED: HALL, LEVI

DRAWER 1A

CHILDREN OF JOSEPH HANKS SR.

71.2009.085.05554



# Hanks Family

Children of  
Joseph Hanks, Sr.

Nancy

Excerpts from newspapers and other  
sources

From the files of the  
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection



Janesville Ill.

Sep 4- 1932.

Mr. Louis C. Warren.

Forth Wayne. Ind.

My Dear Sir. as I am a  
Reader of The Zerna Eagle.  
and in which I Received  
Your name and address  
from a piece that you  
sent in and it <sup>had</sup> published  
so this is why I now take  
~~my~~ pen in Hand and in  
which I write you a few  
lines and in which you no  
doubt will be greatly Sur-  
prised. when it comes to  
Your Hands to read as they  
were written by a Great  
Grand Daughter of Sarah  
Bush Lincoln's and also  
a piece of Abraham  
Lincoln's. Anna daughter

of the late John Thinston Hall.  
Who was the proud owner of  
this old Lincoln Farm as  
it was deeded to him by Abra-  
ham Lincoln, in 1851 after  
his Father Thomas Lincoln  
died, for him to take care  
of his Step Mother Sarah  
Bush Lincoln, and in  
which he did she lived with  
my Father and Mother 1843  
after her husband Thomas  
Lincoln died and she rocked  
me in the cradle when I  
was a Baby and I just liked  
4 days a being two months  
old when she died. I was  
born in this old Log Cabin  
that stood here on this old  
Lincoln <sup>Farm</sup> and I lived in it  
22 years. That Thomas  
Lincoln and his son  
Abraham Lincoln built  
I am still here a living

on a portion of the (2<sup>nd</sup>  
farm) Lincoln and I have lived  
here on it my entire life of  
which will be 63. The 18<sup>th</sup>  
of October. I have a son and  
they people all call him  
the Second Abraham in  
Lincoln. He just likes  
a being as tall as Abe  
Lincoln was. He had a  
friend that lives in mat  
toon Ill. That bought  
him a one hundred  
dollar suit of clothes and  
a high hat and he made  
high a present of them  
They had him on the Fox  
Lincoln theater stage  
one year ago at Charleston  
Illinois. The 19<sup>th</sup> of this  
last March to deliver  
the Gettysburg address  
and they had I and him

Last August on the broad  
casting station at Mr. T.  
W. Stansberry's store at  
Janesville Ill. as I play  
the Violin and French  
harp we have our telegram  
printed for the people to tell  
to look at when they come  
here to see us one of them  
is from Henry Ford tone  
is from Vice President  
Curtis. They give my  
son 25cts a piece for  
his pictures and he can  
make any thing he wants  
out of wood and in which  
the people all buy kinds  
keep for a Souvenir as  
they were made by the  
Second Abraham  
Lincoln he has pictures  
that he has drawn of the  
old Lincoln log cabin

already to put in a 3rd  
frame size 14 x 17 and they  
give him \$1.00 dollar a  
piece for them I and my  
son had one hundred <sup>today</sup>  
people here to see us and  
the many great things  
that we have here to show  
them when they call here  
they sure do get the thrill  
of their lives as we are  
the only ~~now~~ <sup>a living</sup> of the Lincoln  
and Hall relatives that  
is left here on a portion  
of this old <sup>2nd</sup> Lincoln Farm  
to represent the Lincoln  
Halls and Hanks families  
I have quite a few of Relics  
that was Thomas Lincoln's  
and Abraham Lincoln's  
his son I have an old safe  
that was made by Thomas  
Lincoln for his wife

Nancy Hanks Lincoln  
Kentucky Parker's Mother  
lived in an old dinner  
Bell. A 15 Gal old Iron  
Kettle a 10 Gal. Stone Jar  
An old Single Shovel plow  
that Thomas Lincoln  
brought when they came here  
in 1830. I have the old  
hoe that Abe Lincoln  
used to hoe here on this  
old farm when he was a  
a boy also his old Iron  
we edge that he used in  
splitting fence rails  
here on this farm at  
age of 19 years, and he  
lived here on this farm  
till he was 21 years old  
and he went from this old  
log cabin here to the White  
House & have a Bill folder  
a pocket book that was

4th

Abraham Lincoln's a  $\frac{1}{2}$  Silver time the old large  
Pine cent pieces and one  
is dated 1830 that he wore  
on his watch chain for  
a charm and one of the  
old Breast Chains and a  
big ring that he used on  
his ox team that he drew  
the Wagon from Spencer  
Co. Indiana to Illinois  
in 1830 and my Father rode  
in the same Wagon with his  
Father Squire Hall his  
Mother Matilda Johnston  
Hall. Thomas Lincoln his  
wife Sarah Bush Lincoln  
their Son Abraham  
Lincoln that drew the  
ox team that drew the

Wagon that brought ~~the~~  
Illinois in 1839 and  
now my dear friend  
can my Son would be  
glad to have you to get in  
your bed and come and  
make us a nice visit  
and you will sure see a  
great many things and  
a nice rail fence that  
<sup>Son</sup> has split the rails  
and built his fence in  
front of our yard and the  
people all say it sure <sup>looks</sup> ~~looks~~  
nice with kindest regards  
From Sam and my Son  
Mrs. Nancy T. Hall.

and Son  
Clarence T. Hall  
the Second  
Abraham Lincoln  
Yours truly



Mrs Nancy A Hall  
r Son Clarence  
(Charleson Ill.)  
R R #, Lerna Ill.  
sent by F. M. Van Hett  
Vineyard.



Clarence Hall

Charleston - Ill.





Charleston Public Library, Charleston, Ill.

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122 SOUTH MICHIGAN AVENUE  
CHICAGO

BOETIUS H. SULLIVAN  
COUNSEL

TELEPHONE  
WABASH 7788

February 20, 1943.

Doctor Louis A. Warren,  
Lincoln National Life Foundation,  
Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Dear Doctor Warren:

Regarding the burial place of Levi and Nancy Hall, I found in Beveridge's Vol. 1, page 73, information that they came to Indiana in December 1823, bringing their family and settling in Pigeon Creek, and that they were buried there near Nancy Lincoln. Beveridge's authority cited the "Dennis-Hanks documents."

In Hertz' "Hidden Lincoln" on page 358 there is a letter of Herndon dated 1865 in which he relates a visit to Nancy Hanks' grave and states that he was told that the graves beside her were said to be the Halls.

Since Mrs. Chapman mentions Joseph Hall (who was a son of Levi) as being on the trip to Illinois, it is probable that the two daughters, who with Joseph were in Charleston in 1831 for adoption, came also with the caravan.

Will you please send me an extra copy of Lincoln Lore No. 718 - John George Nicolay? He came from my home town in Pittsfield and I would like to send it there.

By the way, I have, with other relics of Nicolay, a poem that he wrote for my mother in her autograph album. She attended Miss Reindeer's school which John also attended. She later went

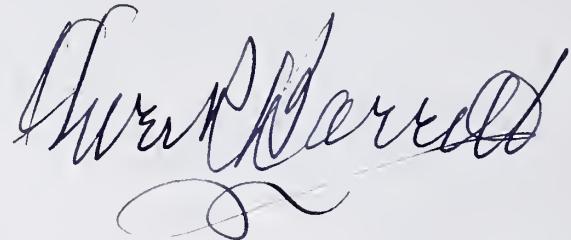
Doctor Louis A. Warren

-2-

February 20, 1943.

to the John D. Thompson school where John Hay attended when he lived with his uncle Milton. About a year after Milton's first wife died, he sold his home to my grandfather Watson and moved to Springfield. John Hay remained in Pittsfield and lived with him until he finished out his term.

Sincerely yours,



ORB:LK

3

February 23, 1943

Mr. Oliver R. Barrett  
Dally, Dines, White & Fiedler  
122 S. Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Mr. Barrett:

Dr. Warren is out of the ditty, as yet, and will not return until the middle of March. I will refer your letter to him as I am sure he will be interested to learn of the facts which you have stated therein.

Enclosed you will please find Lincoln Lore number 718 which you so desired.

Very truly yours,

MP

Martha Putnam, Sec'y.

March 29, 1943

Mr. Oliver R. Barrett  
Daily, Dines, White & Fiedler  
122 South Michigan Ave.  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Barrett:

Back at my office again in Ft. Wayne after a rather long speaking itinerary I find your letter of February 20 with reference to our conference about the Hall family.

I find the name of Levi Hall scattered over the Hardin County records quite frequently and here before me I have a copy taken from an estray book dated December 27, 1816, reading as follows:

"Taken up by Levi Hall living in Hardin County about three miles from Elizabethtown one-day mare, etc.  
J. Hedges, Justice of the Peace of Hardin County."

His name appears very often later than this in land transaction, on tax reports and other places which make me feel quite confident that he did not at any time live in Spencer County, Indiana. I believe the confusion has been caused by the residence of Thomas and Elizabeth Sparrow close by the Lincolns, as we know they are buried in the same burial plot.

Very truly yours,

LAW:EB

Director

## Nancy Hall and Son Entertain

Charleston Courier.

1930

October 20.—In celebration of the sixty first anniversary of her birth, a social gathering was given on Saturday evening at the home of Mrs. Nancy A. Hall, and her son, Clarence Thomas Hall, relatives of Abraham Lincoln on Rural Route 1, Janesville, in Pleasant Grove township.

It is said that between three hundred fifty and four hundred persons were present during the evening, but due to the cool weather and lack of seating capacity, many persons paid their respects; remained a short while, then departed.

A short distance west of the Hall home is Shiloh cemetery in which lie the bodies of Thomas Lincoln, father of the martyred president, and Lincoln's step-mother, Sarah Bush Lincoln.

There were people from Charleston, Mattoon, and almost every city, village and hamlet in this section at the party. It was given especially for Mrs. Hall, but every person present enjoyed the affair immensely, including Mrs. Hall and her son.

The guests brought their own refreshments and neighbors spent several days in making cakes of various kinds and sizes to feed the visitors. A number of

Charleston business men took fifty gallons of ice cream while others took cakes, candy, assorted nuts and other delicacies

Long before one reached the Hall home he knew he was on the right trail. He first took the Lincoln-Shiloh trail, until he reached the corner going to the cemetery. From there on at regular intervals, lighted lanterns were placed near signs guiding the visitors directly to the home. The lawn at the Hall's, the driveways, the roads on both sides and a small pasture across the road were filled with autos. A number of persons came with horses and buggies.

The lawn was illuminated to such extent that it was easy to see one's way about. In every corner were groups of people carrying on friendly conversations, others extending Mrs. Hall and her son congratulations, and still others serving refreshments.

A program had been prepared, much of which was given exactly as planned, but it was almost impossible to stage this for the entire assemblage as all could not get together at the same time.

Mrs. Hall made a short talk on "Lincoln, the Great Lincoln," which was well received, and a large number of the visitors learned things about the great president they never before knew.

There were a number of musical selections, banjo, violin, old fashion fiddling, vocal solos and duets and a short playlet was given.

Then Clarence Thomas Hall, born on July 10, about thirty-three years ago, on the farm where this celebration was given, pleased the audience by his delivery of Lincoln's "Gettysburg Address."

Mr. Hall, tall and stately and resem-

bling Lincoln somewhat, even to the beard he has been wearing for several months, was attired in a long tailed coat and wore a silk hat.

Mr. Hall, when everything was quiet, sauntered out of a room, slowly and Lincoln like. He looked down at the floor, pondered a moment, looked at his audience, then gazed again at the floor. Then he began "Four score and seven years ago," etc., and went completely through the address from memory, repeating it perfectly. The audience remained quiet. As he finished he walked slowly back into the room from which he entered.

The applause was most hearty. After some time, he was recalled to the scene, and he gave the address again. Following that he told several incidents in his life and then several interesting stories about Lincoln.

The party broke up at a late hour and those there enjoyed themselves greatly. Mrs. Hall and son invited all to return and visit them at any time, and the visitors emphatically stated that they would return—and not wait until Mrs. Hall was 62 years old, either.

## “Second Abraham Lincoln” Enters Presidential Race

CHARLESTON, Ill., Aug. 29.—(I.N.S.)—Calling himself the “Second Abraham Lincoln,” tall, gangly Clarence Hall, born on the Thomas Lincoln farm in Coles County, today has announced himself a candidate for the presidency of the United States.

In his false whiskers and garbed in clothing of the Civil War era, Hall bears a striking resemblance to the Great Emancipator.

Hall is dissatisfied with the Roosevelt regime and opposes any member of the Republican “old guard” for the presidency.

“My platform,” he declares, “is the Constitution.”

Hall, who is 43 years old, declares he is Abraham Lincoln’s great-grand-nephew and Sarah Bush Lincoln’s great-great-grandson. He lives near the site where CCC workers are making a state park of the farm where Lincoln’s father and step-mother spent the last years of their life.

Hall uses a chair from the original Lincoln cabin and wears a suit which he says was a gift from Henry Ford.

Janesville. Ill.  
Jan. 16. 1931

Mr. Arthur F. Hall.  
Fort Wayne Ind  
My Dear Mr. Hall.  
As I understand the  
Lincoln Historical  
Research Foundation of  
Fort Wayne Indiana  
will dedicate its Lincoln  
Library and museum on  
the eve of Lincoln's Birth-  
day February 11. I saw a  
daughter of the late John J.  
Hall. Who was the proud  
owner of this old Lincoln  
farm of which is in Pleasant  
Grove, Port Coles Co. Illinois  
on Goose Nest prairie 8 miles  
South east of Charleston Ill.  
my Father Rode in the same

Wagon with his Father Squire  
Hall and Mother Matilda  
<sup>his</sup> Johnston Hall and Thomas  
Lincoln his wife Sarah  
Bush Lincoln and their  
son Abraham Lincoln  
that drove the team that  
drew the Wagon that broug  
ht them here from Spencer  
Co. Indiana in 1830 to  
Illinois. I am the only living  
one of my Fathers children  
that has a portion of the  
farm and in which I am  
still a living on the old Lincoln  
farm and I have lived on  
it all of my life which is 61  
years. I was born in the  
old log cabin that was  
built here on this farm  
by Thomas Lincoln and  
his son Abraham Lincoln

in 1831. in 1851 Abraham 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Lincoln deeded to his Father  
John J. Hall this original  
80 acres of his farm that  
he owned himself to my  
Father to take care of his  
Step Mother Sarah Bush  
Lincoln in which he did  
and she made her home with  
him 18 years until her  
death which was on  
December 14<sup>th</sup> 1869. I only  
like 4 days a baby ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> 11 months  
months old when she died  
as I were born October  
18<sup>th</sup> 1869. She rocked me  
in the cradle when I was  
a baby. I am her Great  
Grand Daughter and I am  
a Niece of Abraham  
Lincoln's and I have a  
large One Cent piece that  
he wore on his watch chain

for a charm dated 1835. he  
gave this to my Father after  
he was elected President  
of the United States. I also  
have two more of his large  
one cent pieces that are  
very <sup>old</sup> pieces of money and  
a half Silver fine and  
also his old Pocket Book  
that he always kept these  
old pieces of coins in  
I have an old Bill Folder  
of his a small rock that  
he cut his Initials and  
the date of his Birth on  
I also have some of the old  
Lance Rails that he split  
here on this farm at the  
age of 19 years I also have  
a safe that was made by  
his Father Thomas Lincoln  
and it was brought here

Then when they came 3<sup>rd</sup> here to Illinois and they  
have been here in this  
Hall Family One hundred  
Years I also have Abraham  
Lincoln's Iron Wedge  
that he split these old  
Fence Rails that I now  
have I have a son and he  
looks like Abraham  
Lincoln and they call him  
Abby he just likes <sup>4</sup> much  
es. being as tall as Mr  
Was he has Lincoln's  
Gettysburgh. Speech  
by heart They are talking  
of putting I and my son  
on the Moovies he can  
make any thing out of wood  
and he has quite a great  
many Souveniers that  
he has made out of wood  
and in which the people

all buy of him Far Souveniers  
as we have quite a great many  
people to call here and see  
us we have as high as 78  
people to visit here at  
one time. The State has  
now 86 acres of this farm  
in which to make a  
Park out of and the  
Lincoln Memorial  
Highway will come  
right by our house. N. L. S.  
of Chickago. Ill. had him  
to have his picture taken  
with a split tail coat  
and a high hat on like  
Ab. Lincoln. Wore and in  
which they put his picture  
in the Prairie Farmer  
and they give him 25cts  
a piece for his pictures  
So you can see that he is in

320.000 Hones that is his 4<sup>th</sup> picture he has the picture of the old log cabin size 7 1/4 x 17 all ready to put in a frame that he has drawed and they give him \$1.00 a piece for them he has Letter openers pen holders that he has made out of the fence rails that Abraham Lincoln split here on his farm at the age of 19 years he has three of Abraham Lincoln's Pictures Bust measure that he has made out of wood with his whiskers on they are sure fine Pictures and they give him \$5.00 dols a piece for them would be very proud to have you make us a visit some time in the future if it is convenient for you

25cts ss my son is a step -  
Nephew of Abraham  
Lincoln if you want  
his picture send him a  
one dollar bill and he will  
be sure to mail you out his  
Pictures 4 of them for that  
price it would be mighty  
nice to have his picture for  
you to show to the people on  
the 11<sup>th</sup> of Feb. and it sure  
would be a big honor to have  
him there to ~~give~~ deliver  
the Lincoln's Speech  
Is the Dedication he is a  
wearing his Whiskers just  
like Lincoln Ware them  
I have the 1<sup>st</sup> pictures that  
was ever taken of the cabin I  
get 25cts a piece for them  
I will close hoping to hear  
from you at an early date  
Yours Truly

Address  
Mrs. Nancya Hall.  
Janesville. Ill.  
R-1

Hall - Weston 1931

January 20, 1931

Mrs. Nancy A. Hale  
Janesville, Illinois

My dear Mrs. Hall:

Your letter written to the President of this Company has been referred to me and I am very glad to learn of your contact with the Lincoln family.

If we find occasion to use any of the items which are made by your son, I should be very glad to take the matter up with you further.

Respectfully yours,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW:LH

September 6, 1932

Mrs. Nancy A. Hall  
Janesville, Illinois

Dear Mrs. Hall:

Thank you for your letter re-  
lating to the Lincoln family.

Several years ago I was at  
your home for a few moments and have been  
in Coles County several times.

Very sincerely yours,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director  
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation

LAW/H



LINCOLN  
GOVERNMENT  
LEAGUE  
2408 MEDFORD ST.  
LOS ANGELES, CAL.  
"All Nations  
Under one Flag"  
—Lincoln



Los Angeles Calif

July 6 1938

Mr. Luis A Warren  
Dear Dr. Warren.

I was much interested in  
your No 478 Lincoln Fore. "Dear Kinsmen of  
Abraham Lincoln" and the mention of  
Hall.

Could you give me some information regarding  
Dr. Jesse Hall, referred to on the <sup>Accompanying</sup> Lincoln Chair  
leaflet. He had been dead some 12 years when  
I got the Chair, but neighbor friends of his  
vouched for the story relative to the chair.

You are doing a great service to  
Lincoln lovers, with your "Lincoln Fore"

Yours truly

Mr. E. F. Rudeen Pres. L.G.L.  
2408 Medford St

High School Principals' Association of the Los Angeles City Schools endorsed this program as follows: "Lecture on Lincoln, accompanied with an entertaining program consisting of whistling numbers and bird calls. Strong rating."

SOUVENIR

PRICE 15c

## COME AND SEE

THAT OLD HICKORY ROCKING CHAIR IN WHICH  
ABRAHAM LINCOLN SAT; MADE BY  
HIS FATHER WITH A JACKNIFE



Judge Charles E. Bull impersonating Lincoln, and Joseph H. Hazelton, who was program boy at Ford's Theater the night that Lincoln was shot and who witnessed the tragedy.

This chair has been on display at numerous places, and viewed by thousands of Lincoln lovers. When it was on exhibition at the Los Angeles Biltmore Hotel, it was featured as "That old \$10,000 hickory rocking chair in which Abraham Lincoln sat;—made by his father with a jackknife."

The Los Angeles Times, on September 14, 1923, published a picture of the chair along with the following story:—"Lincoln relic found here; chair traded in by the late president's father to meet dentist's bill; owned by Angeleno, Mr. E. F. Rudeen." (over)

"Abe, get up a minute,—I want to show the doctor that chair." Abraham arose from the chair, and without taking his eyes from the book in his hand, seated himself on the floor, while his father, Tom Lincoln, took the chair and presented it to Dr. Jesse Hall for his inspection. "There she is, Doc, and she is a dandy, newly painted,—and I made her with a jack knife out of white ash and hickory, and she is built to last a life time. If you want her as payment for that tooth pullin' job, why take her and welcome!"

A statement from the postmaster in the Lincoln home town, declares that Dr. Hall was related to Abe's step-mother, and practiced dentistry there for a season. The doctor treasured the relic and brought it with him to Los Angeles where, about the year 1910, he died, at the ripe old age of over 90. Then his widow moved next door into a house in the rear, where she died a few years later, and the chair became the property of the people who owned the house. They were rank Southerners, of the kind who hated Abraham Lincoln, or anything pertaining to Lincoln. The wife especially held this attitude, and ordered the disposal of the rocker. In a somewhat round-about way, this fact became known to a friend of mine, Miss Agnes Woodward, a prominent lady of Los Angeles, who informed me of this interesting fact, and through whose instrumentality the chair later came into my possession. I can assure you that I prize it most highly.

While giving the bird lore and Lincoln programs in the schools throughout the country, I often longed for something distinctly Lincolnian, such as a letter, or signature, to display before the people. Then as though in answer to prayer, this valuable relic came to me. No other article could have suited the purpose better, considering the beautiful story that could be woven around the old chair in which the mother sat and rocked her children to sleep. We can, in our imagination see Nancy Hanks Lincoln in the rude log cabin, seated in this chair, rocking her baby boy to sleep, or telling Bible stories as she dreamed of a glorious future for him.

But what chance had her Abe, with both environment and heredity against him? The answer to this query has been aptly expressed in the following simple verse:

*"I passed a hovel around whose door  
The signs of penury were strewn;  
I saw the grimed and littered floor,  
The walls of logs from tree trunks hewn.  
I said, 'The gates of life are shut  
To those within that wretched pen.  
But lo! from out that lowly hut  
Came one to rule a world of men."*

You must hear the rest of this thrilling story:

Though brought up in a country where the use of booze and tobacco was the order of the day, Abraham Lincoln never used any of it; and when our country was threatened with destruction, he led the Union forces to victory.

Of his Godly mother, Lincoln said, "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother."

#### **Lincoln Knights' Pledge**

"I will emulate Abraham Lincoln in National Loyalty and in the non-use of booze and tobacco."

Ladies who comply with this pledge are known as Ladies of the Lincoln Knights.

In addition to Mr. Rudeen's writings and lectures on Lincoln, he is known as the peer of whistlers, and song bird mimics. Don't fail to hear him!

The old chair has the original hickory bark seat, and the old hand-made wrought iron nails.

This souvenir entitles the bearer to a reserved seat at the entertainment, and from that group will one person be chosen to have the honor of sitting in the old Lincoln Chair.

Mr. E. F. Rudeen  
2408 Medford St., Los Angeles, Calif.

# LINCOLN POSTMAN

JUNE, 1938



LINCOLN  
GOVERNMENT  
LEAGUE

2408 MEDFORD ST.  
LOS ANGELES  
*All Nations*  
"Under one Flag"  
—Lincoln



*With a world outlook*  
Published monthly since 1928

## A DEBATE

. . . on a most vital issue will be held at the Manual Arts High School, Los Angeles, on the question of whether the State Legislature should enact a law requiring Bible reading in the public schools. The plan to be considered is submitted on page 2.

After the debate, the question will be thrown open to general discussion, so come prepared to state and defend your views.

Place: Manual Arts High School, 42nd and Vermont.

Time: Wednesday evening, June 22, at 7:30.

ONE

"Train up a child in the way he should go; and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Thus reads the admonition of Solomon the Wise, in Proverbs 22:6.

As the public school is an institution devoted to the training of children it goes without saying that the Bible with its superb literature and moral code should be the standard for public school training.

The Lincoln Bible in the school petition which has been endorsed by thousands of California voters reads as follows: "We the undersigned citizens of California believing that the *Lincoln Bible in the School Plan* is just, American, and urgent, respectfully petition our Legislature to enact it into a State law."

#### THE PLAN

The Bible in the King James version shall be placed in every public school library and on the teacher's desk a book of suitable Scripture portions from which the teacher shall read *without comment* to the pupils at the opening of every school day.

Dr. H. L. Herberts, pastor of the Park Congregational Church, Los Angeles, also one of the City Social Service Commissioners, presiding over a stirring public discussion at his church, reports on the occasion as follows:

On the evening of Friday, May 27th, was held a most interesting debate at the Park Congregational Church, on the question of the Lincoln Bible in the School Plan, Mr. E. F. Rudeen taking the affirmative and Dr. H. N. Bunce the negative; but most interesting was the general discussion that followed.

Principal A. F. Benshimal of the Belmont High School located in that district, who occasionally reads from the Bible to his students, had assured us that he would try to provide speakers from his student body to put on the

debate. We received the following letter from Mr. Bensh  
mol: "I regret that I have been unable to arrange for speak-  
ers to appear at your meeting Friday evening. I am going  
that on some other occasion next Fall when there is plenty  
of time allowed, that we can prepare such a debate as you  
refer to on your card." We will be looking forward to the  
treat in store. However, a girl student from Belmont High  
was present and reported on the reactions of the students to  
Bible reading. She stated that when the Principal read from  
the Bible at Aud. Call, the assembly was so quiet and  
reverent that one could hear a pin drop; adding that the  
majority of the students appreciate the religious devotionals.

Most interesting of all at the meeting was the story that  
Mrs. Ida Newton Black so graciously told about her ex-  
perience in public school teaching in the State of Louisiana  
where Bible reading is outlawed. There are two other states  
in the Union, i.e. Michigan and Washington, where Bible  
reading is prohibited. Mrs. Black is president of one of the  
Women's Christian Temperance Unions in Los Angeles.  
Louisiana being a strong Catholic state, Mrs. Black was  
obliged to teach in strong Catholic communities. One school  
she held for ten years, but she always started the school day  
with Bible reading and prayer. She taught in that state  
before and after the enactment of that prohibitive law,  
which was made in 1913. At the Teachers' Institute that  
year, there were high-pressure tactics brought to bear to  
put over that law and the convention was swayed with  
propaganda. Mrs. Black, however, stood up and stated that  
she was accustomed to starting the school day with Bible  
reading and prayer, and she continued the practice when  
she went back to her school. The school authorities told  
her that they could not give her any support as the law  
stood. Then there was a law passed in that county, that  
married women could not teach—and that included Mrs.

Black. Whereupon the Catholic men in that district circulated a petition (securing thousands of signatures) asking for the retention of Madame Black, stating that she was the only teacher who had taught their children to pray. So she was retained and continued the devotional services until she was ready of her own accord, to give up teaching to care for her own family.

*Act 1.*  
In 1922, by a State Appellate Court ruling, the Bible was outlawed from the public school libraries and classrooms, but in 1924 the State Supreme Court annulled that ruling. Now any local school district can adopt Bible reading, the only restriction against it being that sectarian comment is prohibited.

The objectives of the Lincoln Government League are varied and urgent, as we propose to defend those principles for which Abraham Lincoln stood. These include world peace, world sobriety, the recognition of Christ as our Nation's Lord in all our public institutions, and the election of honest and efficient representatives to our public offices.

"Let all the friends of temperance and of humanity unite as a great brotherhood, and submit to sacrifices of money, time and talents, that the people may be thoroughly informed."—Abraham Lincoln, January 23, 1853.

Nor should we forget that this nation reached its peak of prosperity in 1928 during a dry Republican Administration, at which time millions of ardent Democrats in the South joined under the Republican banner. The world depression and return of the old saloon has left us in a sorry plight. By God's help and a strong Lincoln Republican Party this nation can again get on its feet.

E. F. RUDEEN.

F O U R

July 21, 1938

Mr. E. F. Rudeen  
2408 Medford Street  
Los Angeles, California

My dear Mr. Rudeen:

I regret I cannot tell you the exact ancestral line of Dr. Jesse Hall, although I imply that he was a descendant of Levi Hall mentioned in the enclosed copy of Lincoln Lore.

Levi Hall married a Nancy Hanks, probably an aunt of President Lincoln's mother.

This Levi Hall and his wife had several children, one of whom married the father of Abraham Lincoln's stepmother, Sarah Bush Johnston. *daughter*

Nancy Hanks Hall's sister, Mary Hanks, married Jesse Friend, and this is probably where the name Jesse came from in Dr. Hall's family.

If you will write Mrs. Nancy A. Hall, Janesville, Illinois, you will probably get full information about the family.

Very truly yours,

LAW:HB  
Enc. (1)

Director



